

ITALY RUSHES AID TO VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE

Refuses Offers of Foreign Assistance Because of the War.

DEATHS SET AT 20,000

List May Be Reduced by Later Reports, Premier Hopes.

FLOOD THREATENS REFUGEES

Lake Dammed by Debris and Waters Menace Valley—Many Still Buried.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
Rome, Jan. 15.—Official and semi-official reports to Premier Salandra from twenty-four towns and villages in the 300-mile belt stricken by the earthquake of Wednesday and the subsequent tremors which have wrought no little additional havoc, report approximately 27,500 dead. Forty-four towns have not yet reported. Premier Salandra counsels conservatism, saying this number likely will be reduced considerably as hundreds of those buried alive and given up for dead are being rescued and the semi-official estimates are based on deductions computed from the number found alive among the total population. These figures, he explains, are subject to revision downward because hundreds of the survivors fled from the devastated zone in the first panic following the initial shock.

Hope List Will Decrease.
Making all due allowances and taking the reliable figures at hand as a basis, it is officially estimated that the dead will not number more than 20,000. A statement from the ministry says: "We are hopeful that the losses shown by the necessarily fragmentary reports will be reduced greatly."

Since Wednesday the seismograph here has recorded 130 shocks. Except for the first of the disturbances which was responsible for the major portion of the damage, the shocks were slight and scarcely felt.

The property loss will amount to several hundred million dollars.

It was announced today that in view of the war in Europe the Italian government will refuse all offers of help from foreign countries without exception.

A new peril now confronts the population of the stricken valley below Avezzano. Debris from the earthquake has dammed Lake Fucino, and unless the engineers now grappling with the herculean task are able to provide an outflow for the fast rising waters it is feared a break will come and the valley will be deluged. Pneumonia has struck down hundreds of refugees forced to camp in the snow without proper shelter.

Thousands of soldiers mobilized against the chance of Italy entering the war now are engaged as rescuers and relief workers, and the thousands of tons of equipment and commissary stores assembled for use in that contingency have been applied to the relief of the sufferers.

Rescue Work Slow.
The work of rescue is of the most difficult nature and necessarily slow, despite the continual re-enforcements of troops. It is impossible to hasten the work since haste only increases the number of victims by bringing about the collapse of the crumbling ruins.

Avezzano is completely obliterated. Hardly one stone remains on another. Where the walls are still standing they threaten at any moment to fall and crush the life out of those who still are lingering in the debris. This complete destruction was the work of but a few seconds.

Thousands of half-clad fugitives are suffering from hunger and the cold and for these the authorities have to provide as well as for the thousands whose homes have been destroyed.

Further to the south the town of Sora was destroyed partially and about 300 inhabitants are dead.

Nearer to Rome, at Frosinone and other towns and villages high up in the hills where the roads are damaged and covered with snow, there is the greatest suffering from a lack of supplies.

Rome's hospitals are filled and 600 refugees who arrived today from Avezzano were sent on to Naples because even the temporary havens offered in the hotels had been crowded to overflowing.

Reports of the fatalities received from official and unofficial sources by the premier today give the following estimates of dead: Avezzano, 16,400; Pescara (estimated), 6,000; Maglianema (estimated), 1,200; San Benedetto (estimated), 800; Sora, 500; Capelle, 100; Isolatriello, 40; Capistrillo, 50; Sulmona, 50; Torre Cajetani, 50; Togliacozzo, 40; Cesa, 30; Arpino, 30; Villalago, 20; Cocculano, 20; Antrosano, 7; Bussi, 6; Sassa, 5; Monte Rotondo, 3; Topoli, 2; Rome, 1.

Turkish Fleet Leaves Black Sea.
London, Jan. 15.—An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Athens this evening stated that the entire Turkish fleet has left the Black Sea. Its destination was not stated.

SECTION STRICKEN BY QUAKE



Shaded portion of map shows section of Italy devastated by earthquake in which 20,000 were killed on January 13.

WILSON TO HEAR SUNDAY PREACH

Four Cabinet Members Will Listen with the President.

5,000 TO BE MADE LIMIT

Commissioners Uphold Order of the Building Inspector and Many Tickets Will Be Worthless.

President Wilson and four members of the Cabinet will hear "Billy" Sunday speak at Convention Hall Monday afternoon, according to announcement made by William Knowles Cooper, general secretary of the local Y. M. C. A. Preceding the meeting the President will receive "Billy" and his party at the White House.

Although there is city-wide enthusiasm over the coming of "Billy" and his "devil-chasing party," several clergymen and a considerable number of laymen have voiced their disapproval of both the evangelist and his methods.

Reference to Scripture.
"Washingtonians will reverence God, hallow His pulpit, protect His ministry, and save their own souls by ignoring 'Billy' Sundayism," declared Rev. Paul D. Lessen, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, last night. "Citizens of the Capital should protect the religion of God and save it from being buried under a mountain of stuff. Beware, lest the sign of the dollar take the place of the sign of the cross."

Rev. Lessen backs up his talk with the following citations: 2 Timothy 4:3, Titus 1:3-16, 2 Timothy 1:7, 2 Timothy 1:12, Titus 2:3, Proverbs 2:7, Proverbs 8:14, and Psalms 119:50.

Will Limit Audience.
Building Inspector Morris Hacker announces that only 5,000 people will be allowed in Convention Hall to attend the meeting. More than 1,000 ticket holders have lost their opportunity of hearing the evangelist. Appeal was made to the District Commissioners to overrule Mr. Hacker's decision, but it was refused. After the choir and holders of reserved seats are admitted to the building those with unreserved seats will be admitted until the limit is reached. The police will be instructed to forbid persons standing in the rear of the hall or along the side walls.

Workmen commenced the remodeling of the hall for the meeting yesterday. The stage will be enlarged to hold the Sunday party, the choir of 350 and diplomats and other specially invited guests. The raised platform on which "Billy" will speak will be constructed in imitation of the one in use in Philadelphia.

The Congressional section will be placed immediately in front of the stage. Here seats reserved for ministers and the press also will be located.

CAPITAL GIRLS GIVE TOTS HOT SUPPERS

5,000 Boston School Children to Enjoy Feasts at Expense of Misses Slater.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Boston, Jan. 15.—Through the generosity of the Misses Esther and Ray Slater, daughters of Mrs. Horatio N. Slater, the Back Bay and Washington society matron, 5,000 school children of Boston will be given hot suppers three times a week.

The meals will be served at the People's Palace, beginning next Wednesday evening and will continue for one month. The arrangements are in charge of the Salvation Army.

Georgia Mob Lynches Four Negroes.
Macon, Ga., Jan. 15.—Four negroes were lynched by a mob at Monticello last night. They were an old man, his son and two women relatives. The older man was hung and the other three were shot.

The night before the negroes had a fight with the chief of police and the sheriff as a result of a raid by the officers on a blind tiger said to have been conducted by the negroes.

80,000 Flee Before Turks.
Tiflis, Jan. 15 (via Petrograd).—Eighty thousand Armenian refugees fleeing from the Turks have arrived here and are severely taxing the Russians' relief resources. Most of the fugitives are wholly destitute.

NO CRIME TO "LEND" WHISKY.

Judge in Mississippi So Rules in Prohibition Case.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Mobile, Ala., Jan. 15.—The lending of whisky by a man to a friend upon the understanding that a corresponding quantity is to be returned is not an offense in a prohibition State, says the Supreme Court of Mississippi.

The opinion was written by Justice Richard Reed. The evidence was that a defendant refused to sell whisky, but lent about half a pint which he had left over from Christmas with the understanding that a like amount would be returned to him.

SLEUTHS HUNT NEW YORK FOR SLAYERS OF TWO

Burglars in the Clark Station Case Fled to Gotham, Theory.

NEW CLEWS DISCOVERED

Overcoat Showing Blood Stains Is Found Near Murder Scene.

SOLDIERS UNDER SUSPICION

Officials Think Fort Myer Troopers May Know of Shooting of Men.

Believing they are hot on the trail of the two burglars who last Saturday night killed two men and seriously wounded Mrs. Mattie A. Hughes, better known as "Frankie Harris," at her home near Clark Station, Va., Detective Evans, of police headquarters, and Commonwealth's Attorney Crandall Mackey, of Alexandria County, Va., are at work upon valuable clues in New York.

Practically all the clues now in possession of the authorities point to New York as the place from which the slayers came. The hat found near the scene of the tragedy was purchased in a New York store; the pocket flashlight was a New York product; the rich man who nearly a month ago shot up the Hughes residence is from New York, and the parcel post receipt found not far from the Virginia home bore the name of a New York man.

Developments in Case.
There were four points of local importance brought to light in connection with the case yesterday. An overcoat found by George Brown, colored, near the scene of the tragedy last Sunday morning was found to have blood stains on the cuffs in about the same relative place where blood was discovered on the sleeves of the blue sweater found several days ago. This coat was found only a short distance from where the other articles of evidence were discovered.

The overcoat is rather short, of a plaid design, brownish in color and of rather conservative balmain style. The pockets were empty and the name of the store from which it was purchased is said to have been ripped out. It was found about 5:30 o'clock Sunday morning by Brown. He took the coat home, but upon learning yesterday that Alexandria County authorities had offered a reward for the finding of a coat, he took it to Alexandria County courthouse.

Brown also found a large black silk handkerchief. It is believed this was used by one of the men as a mask. Searches in the neighborhood also have found a yellow kid glove, supposed to have been dropped by the burglars in their flight.

One of the most unique developments yesterday was the discovery of three teeth said to have been knocked from the mouth of one of the slayers.

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SENATORS TAKE SIDES IN BATTLE ON PROHIBITION

Amendment to District Bill to Come Up Again Today.

NEW HOPE FOR MEASURE

Sheppard Hopes to Get Around Requirement of Three-quarter Majority Vote.

Arguments in support and condemnation of the prohibition amendment to the District appropriation bill yesterday were made in the Senate, and it is not unlikely the debate will occupy the major portion of the Senate session today.

Regardless of the forbidding rule, Senator Sheppard, author of the amendment, proposes to bring the amendment up and wage the fight on the point of whether or not it is germane to the measure. Decision of this matter will require merely a majority vote, so the "dry" forces are hopeful, maintaining that they command a majority by four votes. Senator Sheppard is convinced he has not sufficient support to suspend the rules, as this requires a two-thirds vote.

Senator Sheppard opened the debate yesterday. He said Americans want their Capital to be the model city of the world, and pointed out that this could not be brought about as long as there were 300 saloons within the District's boundaries. Senator Lee, of Maryland, declared that if the rules were set aside he would offer an amendment providing for a referendum vote on the question by the people of the District.

Favors Local Option.
Senator Stone declared himself in favor of local option.

"I am sorry to find some Senators so narrow, so intolerant, so willing to charge improper motives against other Senators on this floor," he said, speaking about Mr. Sheppard's statement that his (Stone's) speech had been in the interest of the saloon. "I do not speak for the liquor interests, but I do believe there would be better results from every point of order, sobriety, and good morals through strict regulations and high license than through this attempted arbitrary system."

"I shall vote to refer this to the people of the District," said Senator Williams. "If the referendum is defeated, I shall vote for the resolution. Regardless of my individual views, this is a representative government and no man has a right to deliberately misrepresent his constituents. I voted against prohibition years ago because I thought it would do no good. It has done good. Where the public sentiment in large cities is opposed to it, it is not enforced; in the country it is. If I had the power I would absolutely prevent the manufacture and sale of distilled liquors everywhere."

"I love my toddy as well as did Daniel Webster or George Washington. I love my wine as did Shakespeare or Goethe. But I never did do or anyone else any good. I don't like the use of the word 'open saloons' in this debate. If it is wrong to sell it is wrong to buy."

"Liquor Never Did Good."
"I'd tell pure beer, the product of hops and malts and nothing else, and pure wine, by which I mean the pure juice of the grape, be made and sold. But you might as well shoot peas at the Rock of Gibraltar as to bring in a medium proposition like that. Both extremes on this question would want to take you out and crucify you."

"I have come to the conclusion that prohibition will not do any of the impossible things that have been claimed for it, but it will do a great deal of good. Distilled liquor has done men of temperate habits much harm and men of intemperate habits much harm and nobody any good. What little good it may have done can never be compared with the great harm it has wrought."

A joint resolution providing for an investigation by a joint Congressional committee of fiscal relations between the District and Federal governments was offered by Senator Sterling, of South Dakota. It was referred to the District Committee. The resolution is in the words of the proposed Gallinger amendment to the District appropriations bill, which was ruled out on the ground that it was general legislation.

HALT RUSSIANS IN BUKOWINA.

Austrians, Re-enforced, Take Offensive and Great Battle Rages.

Vienna, Jan. 15 (via Berlin and Amsterdam).—A great battle is in progress in Southern Bukovina, east of Bessarabia. After withdrawing before superior numbers of the enemy, the Austrians in that region have been re-enforced and have resumed the offensive.

The first skirmishes resulted in success for the Austro-Hungarian troops and the Russian advance guard was driven back. Early Thursday a general conflict began.

The Austrian general staff reports that the Russians are continuing their efforts to cross the Nida in Poland without success, and are showing more activity on the Danube River in Galicia. The Przemysl garrison made a sortie Tuesday, capturing five Russian guns.

THOUSANDS DIE IN WATERS AS FRENCH FLEE ACROSS AISNE

Germans Capture Five Towns and Completely Clear Northern Bank of Defenders—Heavy Guns Decimate Ranks of Routed Troops as Perilous Retreat Across Swollen Stream Is Carried on Over Flimsy Bridges—Teutons May Sweep Over River on Heels of French and Occupy Strong Positions on Southern Bank—Paris War Office Silent on Heavy Reverse—Von Kluck's Victory Lightens Pressure on Other Sections of Invaders' Front.

PRISONERS AND SUPPLIES FALL INTO HANDS OF GERMANS AS FRENCH HASTILY FLEE BACK

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Jan. 15.—The German war office's claim that the Kaiser's troops have entirely cleared the north bank of the Aisne in the region of Soissons, of French troops, capturing six towns formerly occupied by the French and inflicting heavy losses, was met by the Paris war office tonight with silence. The French statement says "There is nothing of importance to report."

That the check suffered by the French troops in the battle of Soissons is important is admitted here by British military critics though all agree they cannot determine the object of the German drive except as it furnishes a diversion, relieving the pressure in Flanders and in Alsace.

The violent German attack, conducted under the direction of the Kaiser and the German general staff by Gen. von Kluck is easily the most striking news from the western theater.

Strong re-enforcements drawn from the right and left flanks of the German center army, combined with the intervention of the flood stage of the River Aisne which imperiled the lines of communication of the French, preventing them from bringing up re-enforcements to meet the increased strength of the invaders, made possible the German success, say British students of the progress of the revival of the Aisne battle.

BRITISH CENSOR KNIFES REPORTS FROM BERLIN

Cuts Out Mention of French Losses in German Official Statement for Second Day in Succession.

New York, Jan. 15.—The English censor apparently is editing the German official statements which are transmitted to this country by way of London. The Berlin wireless report received tonight direct from Germany by way of Sayville, Long Island, is practically identical with the official German report received earlier in the day by way of London, except that it contains the following paragraph which does not appear in the report transmitted via London:

"In three days' fighting (around Soissons) we have taken about 5,200 prisoners, with fourteen cannon, six machine guns and some revolver guns. The French had heavy losses, from four to five thousand French killed being found upon the battlefield."

A similar statement of French losses was omitted yesterday from the German official report transmitted by way of London.

SIDDONS IS CONFIRMED WITHOUT OPPOSITION

Senate Votes Him Judgeship After Debate of Only Three Minutes.

The confirmation of District Commissioner Frederick L. Siddons as associate justice of the District Supreme Court was secured in the Senate late yesterday afternoon without a word of opposition. The vote was taken after only three minutes' debate.

The fight against the confirmation practically ended when the Senate Judiciary Committee ordered a favorable report on Mr. Siddons' nomination Thursday night following a thorough discussion of the case. The vote in committee was 12 to 5 in the Commissioner's favor, which was a larger majority than his friends had allowed themselves to hope for. The fight in favor of confirmation was made by Senators Chilton and Cummins.

AUSTRALIANS TO TAKE ISLANDS HELD BY JAPS

Final Disposition of Pacific Isles Will Not Be Determined Until War's End, However.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 15.—Official announcement was made here today by the Australian minister of defense that Australian troops will be sent at once to occupy German islands in the Pacific which had been seized by Japan.

The sending of these troops follows the conclusion of an agreement between Japan and England, but the final disposition of the islands will not be made until after the war is ended.

Col. Fetherbridge, who has been appointed Australian commissioner of the Northwest Pacific, will accompany the Australian forces.

Baltimore & Ohio to Baltimore, Jan. 15.—Round trip every Saturday and Sunday, good returning until 3 a. m. Monday.—Adv.

Queen Has Scarlet Fever.
Madrid, Jan. 15.—Queen Victoria has contracted scarlet fever and is under the care of the court physicians.

What Kaiser Wilhelm --Says-- Of Kaiser Wilhelm

—one of many articles which go to make the Four-color Magazine Section of next Sunday's Herald the best issue yet. Another big feature to appear in The Herald exclusively is

JAMES MORGAN, Author of "Twenty Thousand Miles in the Path of Napoleon," which attracted nation-wide praise when printed in The Washington Herald, STARTS NEXT SUNDAY

—the first of a brief series of sketches of the great backgrounds of the present war, under the title of

BATTLING IN OLD TIME FIELDS

They are intensely interesting, telling as they do of Old Prussia, the rude cradle of a martial nation along the Russian frontier, the chalk line between the Occident and the Orient.

Place your order today for your copy of next Sunday's Herald.